



Arizona Department of Agriculture

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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We Put Dog and Cat Food to the Test! Is it safe for your pet?

(Phoenix, AZ) – The Arizona Department of Agriculture is testing dog and cat food in its ongoing Non-Food Quality Assurance program after nearly 80 pets died due to toxins in their food. Recently, naturally occurring toxins, such as aflatoxin, were found in pet food and we want to make sure pets are protected before they dine. These toxins come from fungus found on corn and other grains. When pets consume these natural toxins through their feed, they cause severe liver damage.

The recent wave of contaminated food was not shipped to Arizona, but did make its way to Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky (eastern), Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia, Vermont, and Virginia late last year.¹ As a result, we are working proactively to protect your pets.

Symptoms

- Sluggishness or lethargy combined with a reluctance to eat
- Yellowish tint to the eyes and/or gums
- Severe or bloody diarrhea

Visual Elements:

- Pet food being ground
- Visit the State Agriculture Lab and see how the samples are processed.

Dates:

- **June 22, 2006: 10:30 a.m.: Press Conference: State Agriculture Lab, 2422 W. Holly Street**
You will be able to hear and see how sampling is conducted, learn why this natural toxin can kill pets and speak with a compliance and laboratory expert on this problem toxin. This is your chance to get interviews, visuals and nat sound.
- **June 23, 2006: 9:30 a.m.:** All test results will be in from the various tested sites. We will release those in a separate press release.

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¹ For more information, visit http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/diamond12_05.html.